REMARKS

The Office action of March 4, 2003 has been received and its contents carefully noted.

The Office Action reports that claims 1-17 are pending in the application. However, it appears that the Office Action is in error as only 16 claims were actually pending in the application as of the RCE filing on January 10, 2003.

Claims 1, and 4-17 are pending. Claims 1, 6, 8-11, and 16 have been amended. Claims 2-3 have been canceled without prejudice. Claim 17 has been added.

Claims 1-16 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Sekiguchi et al. ("Sekiguchi")(U.S. Patent No. 5,764,658) in view of Brusewitz (U.S. Patent No. 6,038,257). Applicants respectfully traverse these rejections, and request allowance thereof in the continuation prosecution application for the following reasons.

The Claims are Patentable Over the Cited References

Claims 1-16 are not made obvious by Sekiguchi and Brusewitz

Claims 1-16 stand rejected under § 103(a) in view of Sekiguchi and Brusewitz. Regarding Claims 1, 4-5, 10-11, and 15-16, Applicants strongly contend that both Sekiguchi and Brusewitz, either alone or in combination, fail to disclose the features recited in these claims as amended such as coding scheme

decision means for making a decision as to whether a received
coded bit stream is a first coded bit stream or a second coded
bit stream by determining and setting coding scheme
identification information (identifier) based on a start code
which is used to control (switch between) alternative decoding
steps for decoding the image coded data in the first or second
coded bit stream.

Sekiguchi does not disclose this patentably distinct feature
of a means for making a decision as to whether a received coded
bit stream is a first coded bit stream or a second coded bit
stream by determining and setting coding scheme identification
information (identifier) based on a start code which is used to
control (switch between) alternative decoding steps for decoding
the image coded data in the first or second coded bit stream.

In contrast, Sekiguchi uses a start code detector as a
synchronization tool to generate a synchronization signal for re-
synchronization when errors are detected in layers of the
received bit stream (see FIGs. 6, 12; col. 9, lines 65-68; col.
10, lines 1-26; col. 13, lines 5-8). Thus, the resulting
function of start code detection in Sekiguchi is solely to
enhance the predictability of a start code so that codewords may
be appropriately detected in the layers of received bit
information. Therefore, Sekiguchi completely omits the recited
feature of determining and setting coding scheme identification

information based on a start code and using the information to switch between alternative decoding steps as in contrast Sekiguchi solely uses start code detection to improve the probability of detecting received codewords.

Similarly, Brusewitz does not disclose this patentably distinct feature of a means for making a decision as to whether a received coded bit stream is a first coded bit stream or a second coded bit stream by determining and setting coding scheme identification information (identifier) based on a start code which is used to control (switch between) alternative decoding steps for decoding the image coded data in the first or second coded bit stream.

In contrast, Brusewitz only discloses using a decoder that may recognize different compression algorithm standards (see col. 4, lines 25-30), but does not disclose details of the means recited which determines and sets identification information used to switch between alternative decoding steps.

Therefore, it is clear that both Sekiguchi and Brusewitz, either alone or in combination, do not disclose the recited feature making these claims patentably distinct and non-obvious from the cited reference.

Also, regarding Claims 6-9, and 12-14, Applicants strongly contend that both Sekiguchi and Brusewitz, either alone or in combination, fail to disclose the features recited in these

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claims as amended such as coding scheme decision means for making a decision as to whether a received coded bit stream is a first coded bit stream or a second coded bit stream in response to a first header information or a second header information, wherein said received coded bit stream including the first coded bit stream including image coded data encoded in the first coding scheme in accordance with a first predetermined compression algorithm standard multiplexed with the first header information including image coding_information in accordance with a second predetermined compression algorithm standard, or the second coded bit stream including image coded data encoded in the second coding scheme in accordance with the second predetermined compression algorithm standard multiplexed with the second header information including image coding information in accordance with the second predetermined compression algorithm standard.

Sekiguchi does not disclose this patentably distinct feature of a means for making a decision as to whether a received coded bit stream is a first coded bit stream or a second coded bit stream, wherein the received coded bit stream including the first coded bit stream including image coded data encoded in the first coding scheme in accordance with a first predetermined compression algorithm standard multiplexed with the first header information including image coding information in accordance with a second predetermined compression algorithm standard. As

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admitted in the Office Action, Sekiguchi does not disclose using two different compression algorithm standards as in contrast Sekiguchi only discloses using a single compression algorithm standard (e.g., MPEG-1 video) for encoding/decoding (see FIGs. 1-3; col. 2, lines 6-10; col. 8, lines 4-8).

Similarly, Brusewitz does not disclose this patentably distinct feature of a means for making a decision as to whether a received coded bit stream is a first coded bit stream or a second coded bit stream, wherein the received coded bit stream including the first coded bit stream including image coded data encoded in the first coding scheme in accordance with a first predetermined compression algorithm standard multiplexed with the first header information including image coding information in accordance with a second predetermined compression algorithm standard.

In contrast, Brusewitz only discloses using a decoder that may recognize different compression algorithm standards (see col. 4, lines 25-30), but does not disclose details of the coded bit stream as recited including the claimed feature of wherein the received coded bit stream including a first coded bit stream including image coded data encoded in a first coding scheme in accordance with a first predetermined compression algorithm standard multiplexed with a first header information including image coding information in accordance with a second predetermined compression algorithm standard. Also, it is noted

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that the mere mention of different compression algorithm standards in Brusewitz, without any mention of the coded bit stream format, does not make the claimed feature obvious (still fails to teach or suggest the claimed feature) to one of ordinary skill in the art based on the combination of Sekiguchi and Brusewitz. Furthermore, several of the compression algorithm standards disclosed by Brusewitz were not in existence before the present application was filed and thus the Action may not engage in improper hindsight reasoning to combine Sekiguchi and Brusewitz to make obvious the claimed features by relying solely on subject matter disclosed in the present application (especially regarding use of different compression algorithm standards). Therefore, it is clear that both Sekiguchi and Brusewitz, either alone or in combination, do not disclose the recited feature making these claims patentably distinct and non-obvious from the cited reference.

Conclusion

In view of the amendments and remarks submitted above, it is respectfully submitted that all of the remaining claims are allowable and a Notice of Allowance is earnestly solicited.

Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.17 and 1.136(a), applicants hereby petition for an extension of time for two (2) month(s) to August 4,

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2003, for filing a reply to the Office Action dated March 4, 2003, in connection with the above-identified application.
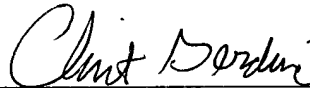
. If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies to charge payment or credit any overpayments to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. §§1.16 or 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at (703) 205-8000 to discuss the application.

Respectfully submitted,

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